

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NDJAME 02243 051456Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 ACDA-07 MC-02 /076 W

-----057360 051506Z /43

O R 051405Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4490

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

DIA WASHDC

S E C R E T NDJAMENA 2243

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, CD

SUBJ: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD

REF: NDJAMENA 2241 (NOTAL)

1. I HAD CONVERSATION MORNING OF JULY 5 WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR REGARDING CHADIAN REQUEST FOR US MILITARY ASSISTANCE. AMBASSADOR AND I WENT OVER SPECIFIC CHADIAN REQUEST TO US TOGETHER AND HIS COMMENTS WERE AS FOLLOWS: A) U.S. RECOGNITION OF CHADIAN PROBLEM BY SOME SORT OF MILITARY AID WAS ALMOST AS IMPORTANT AT THIS MOMENT AS THE ACTUAL EQUIPMENT ITSELF. FROM HIS POINT OF VIEW, HE WOULD APPLAUD SUCH AMERICAN INTERVENTION AS HE WAS CONVINCED THE WEST MUST BE PREPARED TO BACK MODERATE GOVERNMENTS IN AFRICA THAT ARE THREATENED BY OUTSIDE AGGRESSION. B) MOST IMPORTANT NEED OF CHADIANS IN PRESENT FIGHTING IS INCREASED TRANSPORT-

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 NDJAME 02243 051456Z

ATION AND MOBILITY. ACCORDINGLY, THE REQUEST FOR C-130'S IS UNDERSTANDABLE AND EASILY JUSTIFIED. C) FRENCH WERE INCREASING THEIR ASSISTANCE TO CHAD AND THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY CONCERNED THAT THE FRENCH PERSONNEL INVOLVED WERE COMING CLOSE TO BECOMING INVOLVED IN THE ACTUAL FIGHTING. D) HE AGREED TO A DETAILED EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN OUR DEFENSE ATTACHES, (DETAILS OF WHICH WILL FOLLOW). E) HE THOUGHT THE U.S. MIGHT

ALSO BE OF ASSISTANCE IN THE QUESTION OF RATIONS, GASOLINE, UNIFORMS, AND OTHER SUCH EQUIPMENT. HE WAS IN AGREEMENT WITH MY OPINION THAT U.S. SHOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN FURNISHING BOMBERS AND ADDED THAT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PRESENT HEAVY EQUIPMENT IN CHAD SUCH AS HELICOPTERS AND AMERICAN EQUIPMENT WOULD PRESENT DIFFICULT MAINTENANCE PROBLEMS.

2. THE MOST IMPORTANT POINTS WE COVERED DURING THE CONVERSATION INVOLVED POSSIBLE THIRD COUNTRY ENTRANCE INTO THE CHADIAN SITUATION. WE WERE BOTH CONCERNED OVER WHO WOULD OPERATE ANY NEW EQUIPMENT THAT CAME INTO THE COUNTRY AND THE PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL DANGERS OF OUR OWN NATIONALS BECOMING INVOLVED. FROM THIS STANDPOINT, THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE MILITARY PERSONNEL OF A THIRD COUNTRY WOULD BE THE OBVIOUS ANSWER. FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE BELIEVED A DEFENSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN MAURITANIA, SENEGAL, MALI, NIGER, AND CHAD WAS TO BE NEGOTIATED DURING OAU MEETING IN LIBREVILLE AND THAT MOROCCO WOULD UNDERWRITE THIS TREATY AS ITS GUARANTOR. IF THIS WAS THE CASE, HE HOPED THAT MOROCCAN TROOPS MIGHT BECOME INVOLVED IN THE DEFENSE OF NORTHERN CHAD. POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF ANY OTHER SPECIFIC THIRD COUNTRIES WAS NOT DISCUSSED. BRADFORD

SECRET

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